

SITE EVALUATION RISK CATEGORY DEFINITIONS*

CATEGORY	LOW RISK (rank 1)	MODERATE RISK (rank 2)	HIGH RISK (rank 3)
Soils			
1. Soil permeability	Low (Clay Soils)	Moderate (Silty Soils)	High (Gravel, Sand, Fractured Media)
NRCS National Soils Handbook & County Surveys	0.06 – 0.20 in/hr	0.20 – 2.0 in/hr	> 2.0 in/hr
2. Soil depth	Deep (>60 in)	Moderate (20-60 in)	Shallow (0-20 in)
NRCS National Soils Handbook & County Surveys			
3. Thickness of thickest clay layer in the unsaturated zone	> 25 ft	10-25 ft	0 – 10 ft
U of I guidance & professional judgment			
Ground Water			
4. Depth to first encountered water	Deep (> 100 feet)	Moderate (25-100 feet)	Shallow (0-25 feet)
Ground water vulnerability assessment of Snake River Plain, 1991			
5. Mean nitrate-nitrogen level in ground water within a 5 mile radius	Low (0-3 mg/L)	Moderate (3-8 mg/L)	High (> 8 mg/L)
Low = IDEQ anthropogenic impact level with buffer, Moderate = Double the Low value and remain protective of EPA MCL			
6. Percentage of wells over 5mg/L nitrate in the same hydrologic basin within 5 miles	< 15%	15% - 35%	> 35%
DEQ Nitrate Priority Area methodology			
7. Aquifer geology	Clay, Unfractured igneous or metamorphic	Sandstone, Silt, Fractured Media	Gravels, Sand
Freeze (1979) & professional judgement			
8. Time of travel to a spring	Long (> 10 years)	Moderate (3-10 years)	Short (0-3 years)
DEQ Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan			

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Ground Water (continued)			
9. Downgradient distance to nearest domestic well DEQ Idaho Well Head Protection Program, Idaho HomeASyst	Large (1000 feet or greater)	Moderate (100 – 1000 feet)	Short (< 100 feet)
10. Source water delineation area time of travel zone DEQ Idaho Source Water Assessment Plan	Long (> 10 years)	Moderate (3-10 years)	Short (≤3 years)
Surface Water			
11. Downgradient distance from CAFO boundary to nearest surface water body EPA December 2004 Guidance	> 200 ft	100 – 200 ft	< 100 feet
12. Downgradient distance from land application area to nearest surface water body EPA December 2004 Guidance	> 200 ft	100 – 200 ft	< 100 feet
13. 100-year floodplain FEMA: National Flood Insurance Program	Not within 100-year floodplain		Within 100-year floodplain
Nutrient Transport			
14. Run-on Physical Inspection, Topography, Drainage	Professional judgment based on field evaluation, mapping, etc.	Professional judgment based on field evaluation, mapping, etc.	Professional judgment based on field evaluation, mapping, etc.
15. Surface Runoff NRCS National Soils Handbook & County Surveys ¹	Negligible, Very Low, Low	Medium	High, Very High
16. Annual precipitation Precipitation Map – Oregon State Climate Service	Dry (< 10 in/yr)	Moderate (10-20 in/yr)	Wet (>20 in/yr)

*Risk score for categories is subject to change due to field truthing and professional judgment.

¹NRCS surface runoff classes are based on slope, climate, and vegetative cover.